New Trial Set for Sam Bowers

T-P 5/1/69

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP) —Sam H. Bowers Jr. will be tried again on charges of murdering Negro leader Vernon Dahmer, Circuit Judge Stanton Hall announced Wednesday.

Hall set July 22 as the day for the retrial of Bowers, identified as imperial wizard of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan at the time Dahmer was fatally burned in a nightrider firebomb attack on his home Jan. 10, 1966.

The first Bowers murder trial ended in a mistrial, as did his state trial on arson charges and his federal trial on charges of violating Dahmer's civil rights. Bowers faces a 100-year federal prison sentence following his conviction on charges of conspiring in the slaying of three civil rights workers in Neshoba County in 1964.

The federal government charged Bowers with being part of a Ku Klux Klan plot to kill Dahmer because of Dahmer's activity in encouraging Negroes to register as voters.